

And the band plays on...

The U.S. Air Force Heartland of America Band visits Cheyenne Civic center

The United States Air Force Heartland of America Band performed in front of a full house June 25 at the Cheyenne Civic Center. Stationed at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha, Neb., the band is known throughout the United States for its outstanding performances and recordings. The 60-member unit played a variety of music including American military classics, as well as modern sounds complete with live vocals.

Its various musical components perform over 450 concerts annually, touring extensively and performing for hundreds of civilian and military audiences. Past concerts have highlighted guest artists such as Frank Mantooth, Kevin Mahogany, Dr. Frederick Fennell, Chip Davis, John Denver and Crystal Gayle, according to www.offutt.af.mil/band.

Major Philip Waite, the band's commander/conductor, and has an extensive military music career including assignments as the assistant conductor of the U.S. Air Force Band in Washington, D.C. and the U. S. Air Force Band of Mid-America according to the band's website.

The Heartland of America Band has received four Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards and four Organizational Excellence Awards. It has been presented on three occasions with the John Philip Sousa Foundation's Citation of Musical Excellence for Military Concert Bands. In addition, the band has the singular distinction of being the only Air Force musical unit to have been deployed in support of troop morale during Operation Desert Shield according to the website.



A Senior Airman toots his own horn... literally, during the performance.

Major Philip Waite, Commander/Conductor of the Heartland of America Band, gives a cue to the brass section during their Cheyenne concert. Many of the musicians are multi-talented and played more than one instrument during the performance.



All eyes are on the conductor as the concert band performs. In addition to this group, the band also performs in several smaller ensembles that cover such music as rock'n'roll, country and jazz.